

Committee for a Better Environment
Davis Hall, College Park
Final - February 24, 2014
7:00 PM

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Suchitra Balachandran		X
Gemma Evans	X	
Stephen Jascourt		X
Benjamin Mellman		X
Janis Oppelt	X	
Kennis Termini		X
Donna Weene		X
Macrina Xavier	X	

Also present:

Councilmember Patrick Wojahn, Councilmember Alan Hew, Steve Beavers, City Liaison, Bill Gardiner, Assistant City Manager, Abram Fox, University of Maryland, and Denise M. Palmer, Contract Secretary

Ms. Evans called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She announced that the committee currently has seven members and that Mr. Jascourt has resigned.

1. Review Minutes: 10/28, 11/25, 1/27 meetings

The approval of the minutes from the October 28, 2013, November 25, 2013 and January 27, 2014 meeting minutes was tabled until a quorum is present.

2. Financial report

Mr. Beavers reported that budget time is coming up and CBE should establish a list of priorities for the new budget year. There was some discussion of the Performance Measures and proposed changes for the coming year. Mr. Beavers relayed the request that any revisions be completed by Friday, February 28, 2014. Ms. Oppelt and Ms. Evans will follow up.

3. Guest: UMD Honors Humanities group – March 8th Service Day

Mr. Fox introduced himself to the committee and works with the Life Sciences Program on campus at the University of Maryland. His group wants to add a level of community service to the program and conceived 'HumaniDay' in which UMD students will have an opportunity to volunteer for different projects throughout the area. March 8, 2014 is the target date for this first event, and they also hope to establish ongoing projects. There are approximately 100 students in the program. Mr. Beavers suggested

contacting Peggy Higgins with the School Board who may have volunteer opportunities available now. Ms. Oppelt will contact Concerned Citizens Residents of Indian Creek for potential projects for the group and will email Mr. Fox the flyer on the upcoming Permaculture workshop.

4. Events:

- **Good Neighbor Day (?)**

Good neighbor day is a day for college students to interact with the nonstudent community. There was some discussion about the event, but as of yet no request has been made of CBE.

- **Community Library Book Festival**

Ms. Oppelt was invited by Jackie Kelly to attend the Community Library Book Festival to be held on Saturday, March 22 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. and set up a CBE table. Ms. Oppelt will put up display with brochures on Zero Waste, Pesticides, How to Prune Trees from the Tree and Landscape Board and will check the supply to determine which brochures need to be updated and copied.

- **Permaculture Workshop**

Ms. Oppelt recommended Lincoln Smith who works with CHEARS as a speaker for the Permaculture Workshop to be held on March 15 at 10:00 a.m. His fee will be \$150. Mr. Hew suggested that Council be invited to attend the workshop and Ms. Oppelt agreed to send an invitation to them with his suggestion. Ms. Evans and Ms. Oppelt suggested hiring a professional in permaculture first before developing a full program. After the workshop, the two of them will speak to Mr. Smith to see if he would be interested in being the point person for it. Other suggestions were from Mr. Beavers who suggested involving some of the members on the Tree and Landscape Board who have a lot of experience. Councilmember Hew suggested the new councilmember from District 2 should be contacted and Councilmember Wojahn is also interested and asked Ms. Oppelt to forward a flyer to him on the topic.

- **Cleanup idea**

Ms. Xavier suggested a litter clean up using volunteers and does not have a specific date in mind right now. Ms. Oppelt discussed some of the clean up projects that she been involved in the past and suggested the end of April or early May. Ms. Evans indicated that the City provides gloves and bags and CBE provides refreshments. Ms. Oppelt suggested the Anacostia watershed sites as possible locations and will send the previous flyers on the topic to Ms. Xavier for her information. Ms. Evans also noted that April 26 is designated as Maryland Day.

- **Possible future workshops – rain barrels, native plants**

Ms. Evans indicated that Ms. Termini is interested in a workshop on how to put together a rain barrel and a workshop on Native Plants which will be put on hold until Ms. Termini returns and she wants to do a seed swap as well. Ms. Evans will be attending an event in D.C. called “Rooting DC” which is a free event to be held at a high school with a diverse spectrum of speakers on the topic of planting to be held March 1, 2014. It might be an opportunity to develop ideas for other CBE events.

5. Old Business:

- **CBE webpage edits**

Ms. Evans and Ms. Oppelt will coordinate corrections for the webpage and submit them to Mr. Beavers.

- **Business Recycling Committee**

The meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

- **Recruitment**

Ms. Oppelt and Ms. Balachandran will compose the letter to recruit new CBE members upon Ms. Balachandran’s return from out of the country. Mr. Beavers will forward Mr. Jascourt’s resignation letter to Yvette Allen at City Hall.

- **Takoma Park – Herbicide/Pesticide ban**

Ms. Balachandran will update the committee on the Takoma Park Herbicide/Pesticide ban upon her return.

- **Tree and Landscape Board - liaison update & future plans**

Ms. Evans attended the Tree and Landscape meeting last week and the topic of large trees being cut down was brought up. She will work with them on the topic and on education of what species of trees to protect. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

6. New business:

- **CBE Google email address**

There was discussion on who monitors the CBE Google email address and Ms. Evans inquired about an address for CBE. Councilmember Wojahn indicated that Mr. Jascourt initiated the Google email list and Ms. Evans will contact him.

- **CPAE Arts in Schools project**

There was discussion about contributing towards funding for this event. As a quorum was not present, this discussion was tabled for the time being.

Ms. Oppelt inquired if the committee is allowed to take a vote by phone on any topics that need approval. Mr. Gardiner indicated that the answer is more than likely no because a public meeting needs to be held. Ms. Evans suggested that a call list be compiled with phone numbers for the present committee members.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 24 at Davis Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Denise M Palmer, Contract Secretary